

REMARKS:

Claims 1-4, 8-12 and 15-30 are in the case and presented for consideration.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the fee of \$312.00 for 6 claims beyond 20 and for any other fees that are due in connection with this response, to Deposit Account No. 14-1431.

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowability for the subject matter of claim 7, as indicated on page 10 of the non-final amendment of December 10, 2009.

Claim 1, as now presented, includes the subject matter of claim 7 as well as intervening claims 5 and 6 and is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 2, 3, 4, 8-11 and 15-19 have been amended to depend directly or indirectly from this new base claim with appropriate amendments being made to these dependant claims to render the language consistent with amended claim 1.

Claim 10 has also been amended to address the Examiner's rejection of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, by cancelling the phrase "free-cutting" and indicating only that the ceramic is glass ceramic as supported by the specification at paragraph [0060] of the published version of the current application.

By this amendment, thus, claim 1 and its dependent claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 12 has also been amended to include the subject matter of claims 5, 6 and 7 and to redefine this claim as a cell combination to accommodate the features of claims 5, 6 and 7. New claims 20-30 have been added and depend either directly or indirectly from claim 12. These claims 12 as amended and new claims 20-30 are likewise believed

to be in condition for allowance.

Accordingly all the claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance and further favorable action is respectfully requested. No new matter as been added by this amendment and if any issues remain Applicant respectfully invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone in the interest of reaching a conclusion to the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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